

## REED'S COMING BATTLE

## He May Lose in Popularity During the Next Session.

COMMITTEES BOTHER HIM

**Will Have to Choose Between New York and Pennsylvania for Chairman of One—He Recognizes the Fact That He Has Breakers Ahead and Only Expects to Hold His Own.**

There has probably never been a Speaker of the House, not even excepting James G. Blaine, when first seized with the Presidential fever, who has more reported to him by his high friends, and by his committee chairmen than are now disturbing the calm repose of Thomas B. Reed.

Notwithstanding the antagonism evidenced by Representative Johnson, of North Dakota, and the opposition of the House, the impression has seemingly solidified into a foregone conclusion that there will be no opposition to the election of Mr. Reed as Speaker. As has many times been pointed out, the gentleman from Maine made many friends in the House, and in the Senate, as he waded the gavel, even causing irritation among those of his own State delegation, but these will apparently content themselves with doing much talking and little acting.

Mr. Speaker Reed is a native of the New England States, and has attained such prominence in his party, and so nearly acquired the likelihood of receiving its nomination for the Presidency as Mr. Reed. He better than any of his friends and advisers, has the confidence of the people at hand. In the zenith of his political career, and possessing the utmost strength of his personal popularity, he must put forth every exertion to achieve success now rather than

**LAI'D THE FOUNDATION.**

With the election of an overwhelmingly Republican House to the incoming Congress Mr. Reed began laying the foundation for a carefully planned and shrewdly executed campaign for the Presidency in 1908. The very surplus of majority in itself constituted a great danger, as every member of the party in power considered himself especially adapted and qualified to succeed in 1908. The success of any Speaker who aspires to the Presidency must largely depend upon his success in convincing those who have chosen him to be president-lover.

As a consequence, it is predicted that Mr. Reed stands to lose rather than gain in the coming campaign for the Presidency in Congress. At the outside he will do well to maintain himself without advancing. By this it is meant that the committee chairmanships to the best possible advantage, to hold his own in the position of leadership in the House, he occupied on the 4th of last March.

That the naming of chairman will re-

Much interest is felt here in the report which comes from New York city to the effect that Mr. Reed has finally decided to accept the nomination for the office of chairman of the House Committee on Ways and Means in the next Congress.

**CHOICE OF MR. PAYNE.**

It is asserted that at the conference last week held in New York Mr. Reed and the Maine statesman gave Mr. Payne to understand that, unless the unexpected happened

Within the next few weeks, he would be made chairman of this most important committee. The fact that Mr. Payne has been brought about to that, if it is possible, Mr. Reed will stand a better chance than otherwise to secure the New York delegation in the contest of his Presidential candidacy next year.

No positive announcement regarding Mr. Payne's selection, however, will be made until the House meets in the fall, the opening of the next Congress. Meantime Mr. Reed will look over the ground and decide just who he will name for chairman of the committee. It is not unlikely that the chairman he will place at the head of the Judiciary Committee, the next chairman of the House Committee on Naval Affairs, and the next chairman of the committee on the next Congress, and certain committee chairmanships which will be of great importance to the West, namely, that of the House Committee on Commerce and Fisheries, that of the Public Buildings and Grounds, Indian Affairs, and others of minor

It will probably be a disappointment to Congressman Bailey, of Pennsylvania, if Mr. Payne has been selected by Mr. Reed for the head of the Ways and Means Committee. It is also probable that there will be a bitter feeling engendered by reason of the selections that Mr. Reed will be forced to make for the chairmanship of the important committees in order to further his Presidential candidacy.

**HEADS THE LIST.**

It is almost a certainty that the District of Columbia chairmanship, the one of greatest interest to the citizens of Washington, will be given to some member whose name has not yet been suggested in that connection. It is also probable that the latter will be the subject of discussion and present

in that direction will probably be recognized to a less extent than ever before. Gen. Cogswell is dead and Mr. Belde will not be a member of the next House. Mr. Aldrich has had but two months' experience on the committee and Mr. Babcock has served but one term. Mr. Hull will begin his third term and with Gen. Harner makes only two members of the old committee really available for promotion.

The understanding has been that Mr.

Babcock cherishes a great ambition to be appointed chairman of the next District committee, and is a powerful, however, if he can reach the position, as it is not believed that his perlimony as chairman of the Republican Congressional Campaign committee will be sufficient to insure him once his selection. The great Republican victory in the last Congressional elections has largely resulted from his executive ability and his management.

Among those coming into the next House as new members, but who have had Congressional experience, and whose names whose selection might be possible as chairman of the District committee, are mentioned the names of George W. Steele, of Chicago, and Warren O. Arnold, of Rhode Island.

**Wealthy Jewels Assign.**

Chicago, Oct. 23.—A sign on their door yesterday announced that Kasper & Burns, jewelers, in McVicker's Theater building, had been assigned to the next District committee for the benefit of their creditors. The assets are said to be \$130,000 and the liabilities \$100,000.

**Acetylene gas on exhibition, day and**